[Mr. S. Sundararajan]

for providing work in the various public undertakings of Government and to give relief, in co-operation wherever possible with the employers, to those in real distress until employment is found for them. Such relief, will take the form of a grant of rice. A small committee consisting of some of the local officers and one or two non-officials representing organised labour and the employers respectively will be in charge of the work.

RURAL UPLIFT.

56. Another direction in which Government have for some time been endeavouring to secure the happiness of the people is under Rural Uplift. The cry "back to the villages" which we often hear elsewhere has happily for the State never been heard here. This State is more rural than urban, and it has been the declared policy of Government to develop rural areas. With this object in view, seven Village Panchayats were established under the Village Panchayat Act VII of 1100. Twenty-six Village Unions have since been newly constituted in selected localities in 26 taluks as the first instalment of a scheme for rehabilitating the Panchayat system. It is the desire of the Government to extend the scope of the scheme to as many villages as possible. They have accordingly allowed a liberal provision of Rs 60,000 under the head.

57. Government have also been fully alive to the presistent cry for more dispensaries and hospitals in rural parts and although considerations of finance have prevented them from embarking on a very ambitious policy, they feel that something should be done and it is accordingly proposed to send such of the energetic, enterprising of the unemployed medical men available to open dispensaries in the area covered by each Village Panchayat Union and themselves to finance such dispensaries in part leaving the balance to be met by the Panchayat Committees. It is also considered important that the contribution of Government should be in the shape of drugs and medicines and not cash. For the present, it is proposed to start the system with four Panchayats. I have already spoken to you of the directions in which the Veterinary Department will be serving the country including the villages. With a self-contained scheme for relief and development in all directions, it is hoped that villages will become self-sufficient although not isolated.

Other Services.

58. Under this category prominent mention should be made of the Census operations. The decennial census is proposed to be conducted early in 1941 and *inter alia* enquiries bearing on cottage industries, fragmentation of agricultural

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holdings, tobacco consumption etc. will be conducted. The existing revenue staff will, as far as possible, be utilised for the work. An amount of Rs 75,000 has been budgeted for the next year.

Provision is made for minting Chitra coins to the extent of Rs 4 lakhs.

59. *Control of Prices.* In an earlier part of the speech, I stated that the prices which exhibited a tendency to rise as a result of the war was brought under control.

Food control was one of the measures taken by Government for control of prices as well as keeping the supply in the country adequate to meet all needs, ordinary as well as extraordinary. A supply of 1·8 lakhs of sacks of rice was imported from Burma and was issued to merchants at an amount less than the market price; and the issue price was also regulated so that rice may be available to the poor at ordinary rates. The accounts of the operations have not been finally settled but the entire supply with the exception of about a few thousand sacks has been sold out. Provision is made for the final adjustment being carried out in the next year's budget.

Loans to Agriculturists.

60. Besides the legislation intended for relieving agricultural indebtedness, another direction in which the lot of the agriculturists is proposed to be bettered is by following a more rational and well controlled policy in the matter of giving them loans. Government have felt that the work done by the old Land Mortgage Bank has not gone far into the root of the matter. They have accordingly instituted the Credit Bank with powers to grant loans in really deserving cases on liberal terms, retaining with them the requisite power for supervision and general control. With a view to the Bank being of as much use to the public as was expected of it, it is the intention of Government to finance it liberally till such time as it is able to stand on its own legs. The Bank also will in due course grant loans to such industrialists who stand in need of assistance in turning to full account the resources of the State in the interests of the country. A provision of Rs 1·75 lakhs has accordingly been included in the budget.

Revenue Position.

61. Having given a general but admittedly sketchy idea of what is included in the revenue and expenditure estimates for the coming year, I shall pause to consider the revenue position of the State as revealed by the figures. The revenue of the State for the next year as has already been observed is estimated at Rs 285·40 lakhs. Excluding the account adjustment in respect of customs revenue amounting to Rs 15 lakhs, the revenue is really a little over Rs 270 lakhs, a revenue which is certainly higher than any on record so far. It may be said that the result is due to measures

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